

**From:** Aaron Carnahan  
**Sent:** Wed, 9 Jun 2021 12:13:22 -0500  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

June 9, 2021

Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona  
Ms. Suzanne Goldberg  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Submitted to: [T9PublicHearing@ed.gov](mailto:T9PublicHearing@ed.gov)

RE: Notice for Public Hearing; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Invitation for Written Comments

Dear Secretary Cardona and Ms. Goldberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of Maranatha Baptist Academy regarding the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights "Announcement of Public Hearing; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972."

As the administrator of a Christian school I would like to express my deepest concerns over the Department of Education's intent to redefine the "sex" to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Our Christian school functions as a ministry of our church as does our ministries of youth, music, and worship. Each ministry has as its foundation both definitions and philosophies based on Biblical commands and principles; not man's ever changing definitions and opinions. It would be impossible for our school to function as a ministry of our church and at the same time be in accordance with the new guidance if the department adopts this new meaning of "sex."

Our Founding Fathers with so much incredible wisdom and forethought envisioned a time such as this when the government would become so big and powerful that it actually believed it could define words, as well as, decide what rights citizens are allowed to have. For this reason, they clearly stated in our Declaration of Independence:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”*

We would kindly submit that the intent of the writers is clear. Rights come from God not government. If God has not given us the right then we do not have it. This would include a supposed right to choose a sexual orientation or sexual identity.

The desire to have the right of religious liberty and the blessing that comes with it led our Founding Fathers to hazard their possessions, property, and very lives to protect this right. If this department goes forward and redefines words and attempts to force Christians and their families to accept definitions and practices that clearly go against the teaching of the Bible, our country and particularly our students will suffer the devastating results of system of laws based on man’s ever-changing beliefs and definitions of moral standards. The obvious question is what is the next God-given right the government will take?

Religious educational institutions and millions of American citizens recognize that there are two distinct sexes as created by God. God’s design for human sexuality as represented by men and women joined together in monogamous marriage is evident throughout holy Scriptures. Genesis 1:27 states, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” The Bible also states in Genesis 19:4, “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.” Furthermore Mark 10:6 reads, “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.” These are central Christian beliefs core to our understanding of marriage, family, and a well-ordered life. Moreover, these beliefs have been shared by millions of people throughout the ages as the building blocks of a just and virtuous society. For these reasons, we urge the Department of Education to reject the idea that the Court’s decision in *Bostock* has any application to Title IX or can in any way be applied in an educational context.

As a Christian school, we believe that each individual is uniquely created in the image of God. Therefore, our school strives to show Christ’s love to all students by providing them an excellent education that teaches them how to reach their God-given potential, by living a productive and fulfilling life fully embracing their design and serving their communities and their calling in Christ. In order to continue the mission to advance Christian education with excellence, it is imperative that schools remain free to offer services and help their communities without government interference in the most basic understandings of belief.

In closing, I would like to also state that if these definitions are changed, the result would have not only a detrimental effect on the religious liberty of all citizens, but it would also further hurt the students in public schools. Our small Christian school weekly interviews families and students looking to flee the public education system that they believe is failing their students. Interestingly, in 35 years of educating the families in our area, there has never been one family looking to leave our public school system because of discrimination on the basis of sexual

orientation. But, there have been hundreds of families and thousands of students that have expressed anger and disappointment over the lack of a moral foundation, classroom structure, and an academic environment that would give the greatest opportunity for learning to take place for all students. Changing the definition of “sex” to eliminate supposed discrimination will cause even more confusion and disappointment in an already perceived failing public school system and further erode whatever is left of the moral fabric that exist. As a result, families who desire for their students to be educated in a safe, learning environment will in an even greater number seek safe alternatives to public education.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this essential matter. In summary, we ask that the Department of Education uphold the religious freedom of schools and the conscience rights of all Americans.

**Aaron Carnahan**  
**MBA Administrator**

Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, contains or may contain confidential information intended only for the addressee. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, be advised that any reading, printing, copying or other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply message and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.